

A regular meeting of the Town of Cochecton was held on October 9, 2019 at the Cochecton Town Hall. Between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. is for the purpose of auditing bills.

The following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Gary Maas
Councilperson Anna Story
Councilperson Sean Nearing
Councilperson Paul Salzberg
Councilperson Edwin Grund

Others Present: Karen Mannino, Esq., Town Attorney Michael Walter, SPO
Kevin Esselman, Hwy. Supt. Greg Semenetz, CEO
Margaret Richardson, Deputy Clerk Eileen Hennessy, Tax Collector
Mike Attianese, Pres. of Ambulance
Larry Richardson, representative of UDC & UDSB

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Maas with the pledge to the flag at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Maas read a letter from *the Lake Huntington Presbyterian Church Ladies Aid* requesting permission to sell baked goods and refreshments in the community room between 7:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and to sell 50/50 chances and raffles in the lobby between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Election Day, November 5, 2019. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be free to the election workers. Letter was signed by Joy Bertsch.

MOTION to approve request made by Councilperson Nearing and seconded by Councilperson Story. All voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, to accept the Minutes of September 9, 2019 as submitted. Four Board members voted AYE; Councilperson Dr. Salzberg abstained; motion approved.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to accept the Minutes of Recessed meeting October 2, 2019 as submitted. Three Board members voted AYE; Councilpersons Grund and Salzberg abstained.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Story, the following motion was to approve bills on abstract claims #10 for payment as follows:

Prepaid: Claims #471 - 481

General Accounts: Claim #'s 482 - 498

Total General Funds: \$ 7,075.83, including prepaid

Debit Card Account: Claim # 499

Total Debit Card Funds: \$ 250.00

Sewer Accounts: Claim # 500 - 502

Total Sewer Accounts: \$ 390.23 including prepaid

Lighting District Accounts: **Claim # 471 and 474** (prepaid)

Total Lighting District Funds: \$ 571.94

Highway Accounts Claim #'s 503 - 515

Total Highway Accounts \$ 20,430.98 including prepaid

Claim #'s 479, 489, 494, 503, 504 and 505 split between funds same voucher.

PREPAIDS were paid on September 17 and September 26, 2019

All voted in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Maas

Received multiple letters offering tickets for events; NYS Association of Towns notice for annual membership due, \$800.00 and list of training schools for elected officials; NYMIR information on snow and ice removal safety operations which Supervisor passed on to Highway Superintendent Esselman; letter from SCDPW requesting signature on three(3) copies of the 2019 Transfer Station rental fee contract. The Town was paid in January 2019 but the DPW is slow in catching up on paperwork for files. Supervisor Maas called McAndrew to suggest a memorandum to discuss a multiple year rental contract next time around and McAndrew agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UPPER DELAWARE COUNCIL: Larry Richardson

The Council held its regular meeting on Thursday October 3.

The meeting opened with a presentation by Shannon Cilento from the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Community Development: "Keeping Current with the Past: Implementing Preservation into Upper Delaware Communities." Ms. Cilento used a PowerPoint presentation to show how communities could use zoning to help preserve Historic Districts

Topics discussed in part:

- The Federal government has passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the government through November 21. The action restricts the amount of Federal funds UDC has access to. It also creates an added burden on the Executive Director by requiring modified budgets and narratives that cover the funding period.
- It was reported that PennDOT has decided to issue bid requests for the rehabilitation of the Skinners Falls Bridge in the spring.
- The "You are Entering the Delaware River Watershed" signage has been approved and the actual signs are being made now. The signs will be installed in many locations where visitors will be entering the watershed.
- Verizon has agreed to co-generate from the County owned Callicoon of emergency tower.
- The UDC has an ongoing dispute with the NPS regarding tag grant funding for web sites. Although we have funded many web site creations and updates over the years including Cochecton's to the tune of more than \$22,000, the Park Service now has taken a position that they are in an inappropriate use of Federal dollars. I pointed out to them that over the years similar Tags have been approved by numerous Superintendents without an argument. And in all cases that funding has been audited.
- UDC is working with New York Central RR to update the Emergency Response Guide.

Actions taken:

1. Approved the Technical Assistance Grants For Year 2020 as recommended by the Project Review Committee
2. Approved a contract for Records Management Consulting Services
3. Approved the purchase of records Storage System shelving and boxes
4. Awarded the printing of the newsletter to Courier Printing for 2020
5. Adopted a Combating Sexual Harassment Policy

UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC BYWAY: Larry Richardson

Topics of Discussion in part:

- Application for 2020 Sullivan County Legislative Discretionary Contract Grant: requesting \$30,000.
- Schedule UDSB, Inc. Presentation to Sullivan County Legislature: Glenn Pontier and I, if I can make it will do a brief presentation to the Legislature later this month.
- I Love NY Educational Workshop: cancelled, the organization has a great program but was found to be very difficult to work with. We will continue to pursue some kind of educational workshop that might be beneficial to businesses along the Byway
- Other –Heather Jacksy said she was happy to announce that improvements at the Highland River Access located between the Roebling Bridge and Barryville along Rt. 97 have been awarded a \$250,000 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant for construction, under the administration of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The whole project cost is approximately \$532,000, with the National Park Service, NYS DOT, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Sullivan County providing in-kind matches.

- **Orange County Land Trust Response to Rt. 97 Hawk’s Nest Easement Concept** – Ramie referenced a letter to James Delaune, Executive Director of the Orange County Land Trust, regarding Easement Considerations for NYS Route 97 Hawk’s Nest Property. She said that Delaune called her on Sept. 9 and said this idea is of interest to OCLT. He explained the difference between a Conservation Easement, which is a legally binding agreement between a property owner and an organization that carries over no matter who owns the property, with a Scenic Easement. The Conservation Easement basically means that the land can only be monitored with no changes. A Scenic Easement may be more appropriate in the case of facilitating the NYS DOT to gain access for repair or maintenance needs at the Hawk’s Nest, but OCLT has never done one of those before.

Actions Taken:

- **Grant Applications: Butterfly Promotion;** approved a Grant Application from Ed Wesley to reprint a very popular brochure

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 28, 2019

Youth Commission: Eileen Hennessy reported various activities planned for the Cochecton youth such as a West Point game bus trip, a Parent & Me bowling pin paint and dinner, a bus trip to an aquarium. For children 12 years and older is a Murder Mystery Dinner with Santa Claus. The Trick or Trunk will be October 26, 9:45 AM, at the community room parking lot. Approximately 35 children register and will be in costume. Please contact Sue Rodriguez, 845-866-0853 if you wish to have your car in on the trick or trunk or if your child would like to register for trick or treating fun.

Website and Fire District: Councilperson Anna Story – Did regular website maintenance, added legal notices and minutes and worked a total of 3 hours.

Fire District: The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15th for Public Hearing on the 2020 budget.

Lake Huntington Lake Assoc. Councilperson Dr. Salzberg
Councilperson Salzberg thanked Larry Richardson for trimming up the Lake Huntington boat launch access. He also mentioned that the Lake Association is trying to get the NYS Park Service to provide a trash bin and pickup for the access. The Algae bloom research provided methods to be used in deterring and eradicating the bloom safely if it should occur.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SUPERVISOR: Gary Maas

Submitted a written report:

Bank Information

- Deposited \$281.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$679.00 Judicial fees
- Deposited \$1,407.56 Town Clerk fees
- Deposited \$872.26 Debit Card
- Deposited \$6,581.75 Mortgage Tax (3rd payment for 2019)
- Made transfers and deposits as needed and gave budget to actuals to board
- Activity: Record room is up to date and organized with obsolete data disposed or shredded. On September 26th sent out FOIL request. Worked on FY2020 Budget. Re-levy for Dailey Road completed. Looked into updating Computers and Server from Word 8 to 10. Had Budget Work Shop on October 2nd.

CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
Abstract #1	\$ 0.00	\$4,000.00
Abstract #2	\$ 285.37	\$3,714.63
Abstract #3	\$1,106.82	\$2,607.81
Abstract #4	\$ 73.20	\$2,534.61
Abstract #5	\$ 50.00	\$2,484.61
Abstract #6	\$ 428.77	\$2,055.84
Abstract#7	\$ 50.00	\$2,005.84
Abstract #8	\$ 61.60	\$1,944.24
Abstract #9	\$ 50.00	\$1,894.24
Abstract #10	\$ 719.00	\$1,175.24
Abstract #11	\$	\$
Abstract #12	\$	\$
Abstract # 12-A	\$	\$

Worked 87.5 hours

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Kevin Esselman

- Submitted written report,
- Out mowing and patching, ditching and cutting brush
- Did most of our paving
- Had a few repairs
- Installed a few new pipes
- Continued to work on some sanders
- Put new Cochection signs up
- Loader and tractor went out on auction site
- Worked 160 hrs.
- Contractual balance - \$2,115.00

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to accept Loader bid sale of \$42,900.00 and that money will be returned to Highway machinery line. All were in favor.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, motion to award Sand Bid to PJH Construction, LLC of Jeffersonville, NY. All board members voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Nearing, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to authorize Kevin to list the old truck and sweeper on the auction site. All board members voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Grund, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to authorize Town Highway new hire, Shane Duquette, a uniform allowance of \$437.50 based on his hire date in May, (7/12's of \$750.00 annual allowance). All board members were in favor.

TOWN CLERK: (Hollye Schulman, absent)

Check presented to Supervisor in the amount of \$1,216.00 for September fees collected.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: (Gregg Semenetz)

- Submitted a written report:
- Worked a total of 80 hours
- Total mileage 654
- Permits issued: 5 Renewals: 0, C of O's issued: 2 Notice of Disapproval: 0, Municipal search letters: 5
- Appearance tickets: 0
- Revenues: \$1,050.00, Expenses: \$429.32
- Contractual balance: \$1,202.38

TAX COLLECTOR: Eileen Hennessy

She has \$0.01 in her checking account and worked 5 hours in September.

ATTORNEY: Karen Mannino, Esq.

No Report for September; mentioned that the Town needs to enact an updated Sexual Harassment Policy. Every person who works for the Town needs to attend a training class, watch a video, participate in discussion and sign a form upon completion. Department heads will coordinate their group's training.

ASSESSOR: Lorry King - not present

Submitted a written report; Supervisor went over the report:

Old Business:

- Field review of sales and new construction
- I am looking for a member of the Board of Assessment review
- I attended a mandatory training session in Middletown

New Business:

- Prepared and provided Agriculture and Forest Exemption information to the Board
- Worked with Tax Collector

Assessor worked 31 hours Clerk worked 32.5 hours

Contractual balance: \$1,212.78

Supervisor Maas will tell Lorry to plan on attending November 13, 2019 board meeting to discuss the list of Agricultural Exemptions she provided to each board member.

PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: Earl Bertsch - not present

No report

SEWER OFFICER: Michael Walter

- Submitted a written report:
- Spent a total of 73.5 hours attending to sewer district affairs in July
- Expenditures: \$00.00
- Contractual Balance: \$11,920.21

Supervisor Maas commented that he and the Board thank Highway Superintendent Esselman and his staff for the major road improvements for the sewer plant access.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Tamara DePaolo - not present

No report

HISTORIAN: K. C. Garn - not present

No report

TOWN BOARD:

- (Councilperson Story) – Nothing to add
- (Councilperson Nearing) - Nothing to add
- (Councilperson Salzberg) – Nothing to add
- (Councilperson Grund) Nothing to add
- (Supervisor) Nothing to add at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Unsafe Buildings –discussed earlier
2. Welcome signs for Cochecton – discussed earlier

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Updating of five (5) computers and Server.
MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Grund, motion to authorize Supervisor Maas to purchase the five (5) computers needed to upgrade from Windows 8 to 10 and a Server. All board members were in favor.
2. SCHEDULE OF DOG FEES – CHANGES. Currently the fees schedule is \$ 30.00 per pick up and \$ 15.00 impoundment per day. The board had a discussion to increase fees to: first pick up at \$ 50.00; second pick up at \$ 75.00; third pick up at \$ 100.00, AND impoundment will increase from \$ 15.00 per day to \$ 25.00 per day. The new fees will officially become effective at the Board’s 2020 reorganization meeting as has been done in the past.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MOTION: On motion by Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing to go into executive session regarding litigation. Time was 8:42 p.m. All board members were in favor.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Nearing to close executive meeting at 8:55 p.m. No decisions were made. All voted in favor.

Board members reviewed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Story, seconded by Councilperson Salzberg to publish in the Sullivan County Democrat a legal notice for a scheduled Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget FY 2020, Thursday, November 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at Cochecton Town Hall. All voted in favor.

MOTION: On motion Councilperson Salzberg, seconded by Councilperson Grund to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, _____
Margaret Richardson, Deputy Town Clerk